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SUBJECT: EVENSEN MEETING IN GENEVA ON LAW OF THE SEAS
 REFS: (A) STATE 3591; (B) 76 EC BRUSSELS 11589 (NOTAL)

1. THE EC COMMISSION INFORMED THE MISSION THAT THE EC PLANS TO ATTEND THE MEETING IN GENEVA CALLED BY NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER EVENSEN TO CONSIDER COMMITTEE I MATTERS IN PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT SESSION OF THE UN LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE. AS AT THE UNLOS SESSION IN NEW YORK LAST SUMMER, THE EC WILL BE REPRESENTED BY BOTH THE COMMISSION (INCLUDING DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS GALLAGHER AND LEGAL COUNSEL HARDY) AND THE EC COUNCIL INCLUDING GENERAL SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS (NOTABLY LEGAL DIRECTOR VIGNES) AND THE UK IN THE COUNCIL PRESIDENCY ROLE.

2. OFFICIALS OF BOTH TEC COMMISSION AND GENERAL SECRETARIAT EMPHASIZED THAT THEY HOPE TO BE EVEN MORE SUCCESSFUL IN 1977 THAN THEY WERE LAST SUMMER IN HARMONIZING THE POSITION OF THE MEMBER STATES ON LOS ISSUES. A SERIES OF MEETINGS OF EC WORKING LEVEL GROUPS IS NOW UNDER WAY AS A FOLLOW-UP TO THE DEC 10 MEETING IN BRUSSELS OF THE HEADS OF THE LOS DELEGATIONS OF THE MEMBER STATES. ON FEB 10 A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE HEADS OF LOS DELEGATIONS WILL BE HELD PRIMARILY TO CONSIDER THE EVENSEN MEETING AND THE "SEMINAR" ON THE SEABEDS BETWEEN THE EC AND THE ACP STATES SCHEDULED FOR FEB 22-25. ALTHOUGH THESE COORDINATING MEETINGS ARE HELD UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE EC COUNCIL, COMMISSION OFFICIALS NORMALLY ATTEND AND PREPARE STUDIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE MEMBER STATE REPRESENTATIVES.

3. COMMISSION AND GENERAL SECRETARIAT SOURCES STATED THAT THE FEB 22-25 DATE FOR THE ACP MEETING WAS SELECTED IN ORDER TO HELP PREPARE THE ACP STATES FOR THE EVENSEN MEETING THE FOLLOWING WEEK. THEY ARE STRESSING THE TECHNICAL AND INFORMATIONAL CHARACTER OF THE MEETING AND HOPE THAT IT WILL HELP PERMIT THE ACP PARTICIPANTS

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TO PLAY A BETTER INFORMED AND MORE CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE AT THE EVENSEN MEETING AND SUBSEQUENT LOS MEETINGS.

4. THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO INFORM US MISSION IN THE ACP STATES OF THE EC-SPONSORED SEMINAR ON THE SEABEDS FEB 22-25 IN THE EVENT THEIR HOST GOVERNMENTS MAY HAVE ANY RELEVANT COMMENTS BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER THE SEMINAR. HINTON

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